

HIPPY Australia Newsletter



Issue 8, December 2009

13 new programs for HIPPY in 2010

During August and September the Brotherhood and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) sought expressions of interest from partner agencies to deliver HIPPY in new locations across Australia.

The expansion to include additional locations for 2010 is part of the Australian Government's \$32.5 million investment over five years, which will result in having 50 programs in operation by 2011.

The expression of interest process was launched by the Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth, Kate Ellis on 6 August 2009 at the HIPPY Elizabeth Grove site in South Australia.

A panel of representatives from both the Brotherhood and DEEWR met to assess the applications and Minister Ellis announced 13 successful

agencies on 18 October 2009. HIPPY Australia are excited to have the opportunity to work with new agencies in providing HIPPY to more locations around Australia.

On 7 December 2009, managers and coordinators of the new programs came together in Melbourne for national training to prepare for

the implementation of the program in their communities. The national HIPPY training was the first opportunity for new and existing programs to meet and share experiences.

There will be 35 HIPPY programs in operation in 2010, with the plan for a further 15 to be established in 2011.



Pictured: Minister Kate Ellis during the launch at HIPPY in Elizabeth Grove.

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| State | New locations in 2010 | New partner agency |
|-------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| NSW | Bidwell (Sydney) | Uniting Care Burnside |
| NSW | Bowenfels (Lithgow) | Centacare Bathurst |
| NSW | Cabramatta (Sydney) | Learning Links |
| NSW | North Dubbo | Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes |
| NSW | Warrawong (Port Kembla) | Barnardos Australia |
| VIC | Braybrook | Western Region Health Centre |
| VIC | Long Gully/California Gully | St Luke's Anglicare Ltd |
| QLD | Logan Central | Kingston Eastern Neighbourhood Group |
| QLD | Mount Morgan | Australian Red Cross Society |
| QLD | Pioneer (Mt Isa) | Centacare Townsville |
| SA | Mansfield Park (Adelaide) | Novita Children's Services |
| SA | Whyalla Stuart | Uniting Care Wesley Port Pirie |
| NT | Katherine | Anglicare NT |



Brotherhood of St Laurence
Working for an Australia free of poverty

The Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) is licensed to operate HIPPY in Australia. BSL is dedicated to an early-years strategy that encourages, supports and acknowledges the importance of positive parent/child interaction in enhancing children's learning.

A Busy, challenging and rewarding 2009

As this is the last newsletter for 2009 on behalf of HIPPY Australia I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new partner agencies.

I am sure you and your families will find HIPPY rewarding, challenging and fun. I would also like to recognise the diligence and commitment that all twenty two partner agencies have demonstrated in the delivery of quality HIPPY programs for families across Australia.

Giving families the best possible start around the world was a strong theme at the International Meeting held in Vienna this year. The meeting brought together all the programs and it was wonderful to experience the first hand what it means to be a part of HIPPY International.

Nicola Mackenzie and I attended and it was a wonderful opportunity to

learn, share challenges, achievements and to move forward with new ideas. I would like to share with you an event that occurred on our last day.

HIPPY Vienna organised a visit to their program. The program is delivered to predominately newly arrived Turkish mothers. I was speaking with a mother while her daughter drew pictures next to me, when she said to me:

"HIPPY has given me confidence as a mother and I have many friends that I see at our parent meetings and we do many things together".

Her daughter then gave me a picture of her mother, herself and I, talking and having fun. I wanted to share this with you as it does not matter where you are doing HIPPY the program strongly benefits families and has a positive impact on their lives.



I would like to thank everyone involved with HIPPY Australia and a special thank you to the HIPPY Australia team.

On behalf of HIPPY Australia we look forward to working with you in 2010. Seasons greetings and a happy new year.

*** Carmen Calleya-Capp**
National Manager HIPPY Australia



HIPPY CHILD QUOTE... *"I feel big when I am with Riley (younger brother) and I feel small when I see an elephant"*. Hayley Cox, HIPPY Roseberry, Tasmania

Filming the DVD 'The HIPPY Way – 3 C's and Role Play'

Melbourne turned on the taps for filming for our new training DVD "The HIPPY Way – 3 C's and Role Play".

Torrential rain and grey skies greeted our "stars" which included parents and children from HIPPY Fitzroy (unfortunately our HIPPY Geelong "stars" couldn't make it due to a tummy bug!).

The most frequent phrase heard from the production team for the three

days was "can we do that one more time" and the parents and children showed such patience as the crew filmed from many different angles!

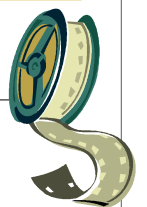
Despite the gloomy weather the DVD looks light and bright and shares the message of the 3 C's and role play really clearly. It will be available to all sites by the end of the year.

The DVD will replace the HIPPY New Zealand DVD "Through my child's

eyes" and we see it as being part of our training package for coordinators, home tutors and families. It's great to have our training materials reflect the HIPPY program in Australia and we are grateful to AXA for their support on this project.

Special thanks to all the participants. Here are some photos taken on set of "The HIPPY Way – 3 C's and Role Play".

***Lou Gilfillan, HIPPY Australia**



HIPPY Clarendon Vale — The Journey So Far

Clarendon Vale HIPPY, in the south of Tasmania, began in February this year. Diane Brokenshire and Jo Underwood from Colony 47 took on the shared role of Coordinator.

A steering committee was formed through connections made with the local neighbourhood houses, childcare centre, local schools and the health centre. Jo and Diane credit much of their success in establishing HIPPY to the ideas and contributions of the committee members, particularly in those first couple of months.

Jo and Diane attended early childhood groups, service provider network meetings and local shopping centres to spread the HIPPY word, and it paid off! Together they met with prospective families, enrolling children for the year. Two tutors were then selected, and they have been doing an awesome job. Their commitment and passion for HIPPY is nothing short of infectious, and the HIPPY families they visit each week have certainly caught the bug! Word is getting out about the success of HIPPY and more families are keen to join. Jo has now moved on to a counselling position at Colony 47. This is what she had to say about her time with HIPPY:

'The biggest thing I've discovered since starting HIPPY is the sense of community and how willing people are to advance their children's education if only provided with the opportunity.' Sue, HIPPY Tutor

'As a parent I have loved doing HIPPY with my son so far. Even though we still have difficulties in some areas, I am pleased with how far he has come and what he has learnt already. We have loved spending the one-on-one time together, and HIPPY makes it fun.'

As a tutor, the experience has been very rewarding so far. I have formed very good relationships with both the mums and the children that I work with.'

Michelle, HIPPY Tutor



Sue and Michelle at HIPPY Clarendon Vale

'The value of HIPPY as an early childhood school readiness program is obvious. However, its value as a program which inspires confidence, personal growth and highlights the many strengths of the tutors is remarkable.

Sue and Michelle shine brighter in their own confidence and positivity each time I see them, and it's been a pleasure to share this journey with them.'

Her role of Co-ordinator has been filled by me, Andrea Prins, working along-

side Diane. I am very excited to join the program! I have a primary school teaching background, and a passion for all people to be given the opportunity to learn.

HIPPY Clarendon Vale is now looking to the future, planning for the current families to continue on to the Age 5 activities next year, as well as recruiting new families to start the Age 4 program. May Clarendon Vale's journey with HIPPY be long and fulfilling!

* **Andrea Prins, HIPPY Clarendon Vale**



HIPPY mums parent group clothes swap

A very successful and fun event was held recently for Clarendon Vale HIPPY Mums and their children. It was a Clothes Swap!

Everyone brought their no longer required children's and adult clothing and Colony 47 staff also kindly donated lots of cool stuff. We put everything in a big pile and first the kids HAD to jump into the mountain of clothes and have a play, including the Coordinators!

Then we got down to business and everyone sorted through the clothes finding shirts, pants, dresses, jackets and pajamas. It was a lot of fun and brought everyone closer together.

We wanted to share this story with you because it's a great idea for a Group Gathering and is also a good way for mums to get some new clothes for their family without spending any money!

Diane Brokenshire — HIPPY Coordinator

My experience with HIPPY by Josie

My son (aged 4) and I have been doing the HIPPY program for over four months. In this time we have done a lot of fun activities through the HIPPY program.

Jed has learnt so much it has surprised me. The activities are easy to follow, you don't need a lot of resources and the tutors provided us with the basics.

My son is a shy child and his speech wasn't that good. But over the last 3 months I have noticed he is using more words, he can form sentences, he can recognize numbers, and is more confident with speaking.

This program encourages you to be your child's first teacher. It shows you how to teach your child through easy activities that don't take long to do.

Sometimes it's hard to find time to

do these activities but when I see the rewards it inspires me to make time.

In my family there is my son, my daughter (age 7) and myself. We all love to sit and do these activities together.

One activity was to make Aboriginal clapping sticks. The girl and family in the book made music with these clapping sticks and danced around their camp fire. I put a CD on and after colouring in our clapping sticks, my son, daughter and I danced around the lounge room clapping our sticks and having fun together as a family.

So far I've loved the parent groups. I have fun there, everyone is easy to talk to and you can be yourself.

We are all there for the same reason

and it's good to be able to talk to other parents who have the same interests and

concern for our children. It gets me out of the house. You don't have to do anything at the group if you don't want to and I wish more parents would come.

The HIPPY program helps you to teach your child the basics of reading, writing, maths and much more. It has taught me simple yet effective ways of teaching my son skills to equip him for mainstream school.

I'm so happy to be a part of this program. It makes me feel proud to be my son's first teacher.

***Josie is a parent at HIPPY Windale**



HIPPY La Perouse brings graduation home

Due to one of our Age 5 children leaving to go overseas before our graduation, we decided to visit him and his family before they left.

The Bangladeshi, Alam family transferred to Australia from New Zealand in 2007. HIPPY La Perouse was asked by the HIPPY Auckland Coordinator, Doreen, to continue the HIPPY work with the family in Australia. The mother, Naz continued HIPPY with her daughter Zara (who



graduated last year) and also started HIPPY with her son Zyan last year.

Naz was a great working with her children and always did the work each week (with both children last year). She always had their work to show her home tutor and would ring to reschedule her visit if something came up.

Home Tutor, Kelly said she was a very dedicated mum. Kelly also noticed a difference in Naz's English and confidence over the three years that she worked with her. At first Naz commented on how different her son was compared to her daughter, Zyan wasn't interested in school work which was the opposite to Zarah. However after a year of HIPPY he began to enjoy it and would look forward to doing the work. Naz spoke to his teacher before they finished the

school year and the teacher told her how much Zyan had improved and was very competent at school.

On Wednesday we decided to give Zyan his own little graduation. We presented him with his Age 4 and 5 booklets, his graduation certificate, T-Shirt and HIPPY La Perouse bag. Both his parents and sister were there to enjoy the moment. His parents were very proud and so was Zyan. They are now off to Bangladesh for 8 weeks to visit family members. Naz told us that she tells all her friends about HIPPY, how good it is and how it helped her children. Her sister is ready to do HIPPY with her son next year.

*** Sherri Longbottom, HIPPY La Perouse Coordinator**





Roseberry's October Group meeting

Seven parents and children attended the *Rainbow Lunch* held at the Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre. It was a great turnout considering the heavy rain and very cold conditions and the distance some parents have to travel to attend group meetings.

A healthy lunch was provided and all parents were given a "Fun, Food & Facts" cookbook sponsored and donated by the Salvation Army. All the children were given the opportunity to make their own lunch (a new experience for many) and enjoyed making and eating their own small pizzas, sandwiches and wraps using ingredients that were healthy. As part of the day's theme the kids had a lot of fun having their hands painted with beautiful rainbow colours and imprinting them on a calico sheet which will be made into a table cloth to be used at future meetings.

The children watched as assorted jars

were filled with varied amounts of water to learn about acoustics, and mixing colours to form a rainbow of colours and sounds. They learned how the amount of water in a jar changed the pitch and sound of the music when the jars were lightly tapped with a metal spoon. This activity also made for an interesting and educational

exploration of early science concepts which the children could understand.

Overall the meeting was a great success with parents, children, coordinator and tutors all participating in the activities which were fun as well as educational.

***Jo McKean, HIPPY Roseberry Coordinator**



Pictured: Aneka, Hayley, Reanne, Christopher, Madeline & Page at HIPPY Roseberry.

What's happening in Burnie... lots of fun things!

At our "Green Thumbs" group meeting Elizabeth decided she did NOT need to practice her fine motor skills and visual instruction skills

by copying the thumb print painting we'd prepared. She thought she really needed to develop her kinaesthetic learning and sensory responses by manipulating the green paint for her own self expression and creativity... and it just felt so good! (No smock – they were all dirty from our vegie planting. Thank goodness for her lovely understanding Mum!)



I attended a service providers workshop run by "Get Active Burnie" called 'Growing vegies in pots'. From this I was given a \$50 voucher for a starter kit. I was able to buy pots, potting mix

and seedlings for our group. The cherry tomatoes, sugar snap peas and strawberries are in a lovely warm spot in the courtyard at Acton School. We visit them each meeting to check their progress and give them some fertiliser.

The rainbow lunchbox group meeting had children making healthy snacks such as traffic light sandwiches (tomato, cheese and baby spinach).



Lunch box bingo was played and families filled decorated paper bags with healthy snacks such as dried fruit, nuts and popcorn to take home.

We recently hosted the Burnie HIPPY Olympics, with events such as running and baton races. Other activities for the event included discus throwing (plastic plates, gold spray painted and

glittered), Hoola hoop, 3 legged, relay and hacky sack races, ring a rosie and duck duck goose (an Olympic event? – at HIPPY it is!). Let's not forget the game 'chase the tutor' - "Run Tash, run, run, run!!!" Children made their own medals and flags before venturing down to the oval for more physical activities. They all had frozen fruit (mango n grape) in juice cups to cool down after. A great, fun day and the weather was beautiful !!

***Laura Strofheldt, HIPPY Burnie Coordinator**



HIPPY International Conference—Vienna 2009

During the first week of June, Carmen and I had the privilege of attending the annual HIPPY international meeting.

This wonderful three day event was hosted by the HIPPY site in Vienna and was attended by representatives from HIPPY national offices across the globe.

The opportunity to come together was wonderful. We were able to share with the group the work that we have been doing to redevelop the HIPPY materials and the Framework for HIPPY in Australia that we have developed this year. We were also able to share what we have learned in the first year of our 3 year roll out of HIPPY to 50 communities across Australia.

We learned from others that the positive interactions between parents, children, tutors and coordinators experienced where HIPPY is running

are similar in every country that has introduced HIPPY. We also learned that the challenges we experience in delivering a program to such wonderfully diverse communities across Australia are similar to those experienced by every other site around the world.

We came away from the meeting with a sense that in Australia we are fortunate indeed to have

- The funding needed to support HIPPY across the country.
- The support of HIPPY international and the funding support from AXA to redevelop the HIPPY materials
- The opportunity for HIPPY in Australia to be involved in a national evaluation of the program to ensure that families participating in HIPPY in Australia experience a high quality

program, that has a positive and long lasting impact on participating families.

- The truly inspirational home tutors and coordinators that we do, who together work with such passion and commitment.

The HIPPY International network continues to work together to ensure experiences, knowledge and materials are shared and help to inform the development of HIPPY internationally.

*** Nicola Mackenzie, HIPPY Australia**



What's cooking in HIPPY Launceston?

In their first year of operation the HIPPY Launceston site is proving to be a great success. Skills picked up through the program are stretching further than anticipated, with parents and tutors finding their skills come in handy in more than just the home.

A parent in the program, Sharee was attending Tafe one day when a guest speaker questioned the group on how to read a book to small children. Sharee was able to provide the answer to this question because HIPPY had coached her in the correct way. Sharee was proud of herself for giving the correct answer and told the gentleman that she knew this because of HIPPY.

He then went on to talk about access to free books and Sharee again mentioned HIPPY saying that story books are given free to the children. In a follow up this interchange, later that day the speaker was addressing a second group of students and he

mentioned HIPPY and asked if any one in the group heard about it. This group was attended by HIPPY Tutor Jane.

Another HIPPY Launceston parent, Bakita is teaching herself English with help from the HIPPY program. Her enthusiasm to learn has led her school aged children to ask her to teach them to read English as well.

HIPPY can help develop children's attention levels and build their self esteem and confidence in learning.



HIPPY Parent, Romy commented that she felt HIPPY had helped her child, Kaine at Early Start. He is now confident to leave her and join in the activities and he is also sitting and listening better.

It is great to receive this sort of feedback on just how widely HIPPY reaches families and communities, and HIPPY Launceston is doing a wonderful job at encouraging these learning opportunities.

At a recent group Meeting the topic was Nutrition and Cooking with Kids. Kathryn Ervin, guest speaker from CHAT bought along toys, games and books related to this topic. There was lots of laughter and a very noisy, but relaxed room. Some of the ladies cooked vegetable pikelets and banana smoothies which were all devoured. This photo is of Lisa (Tutor and official photographer for the night), prancing around in a child's chef hat.

Colac group meeting with Merrin Wood – Art Therapist

At two consecutive group meetings, Merrin, an Art Therapist, worked with our group of parents. The first morning Merrin presented us with a slice of chocolate playdough and decorations, for us to start the process of getting us in touch with our creative side. For some, this took more delving than others! We then put our creations to the side and were asked to make a collage with a large piece of butchers paper and moving around the room, select from pictures and words cut from magazines. We were to choose things that resonated with us, where we were now, where we want to be, and, whats important to us.

It was quite an amazing experience when all of us found things that made a real connection – hearing “YES! That’s me!” around the room. We then had an opportunity to share our collages and this made for deeper understandings and new connections within the group. Sadly our time was up, but were all in anticipation of the next group meeting.

The next meeting Merrin asked us to stand as a tree, and in doing so, think about the type of roots, trunk, branches, shape, leaves, fruit, etc that it may have. Merrin then posed some reflective questions and then gave us modeling clay to sculpt our tree. We had to do this in silence, which was a challenge for some!! It was fascinating the differences and the insight that was

gained into what grounded them, what provided their trunk and stability.

The responses from the parents demonstrated the worth of these activities and how connected they felt to themselves and to each other as a group. This is what they had to say:

“It was great to do something that connected us as a group”

“I loved Merrin’s style, she had a healing aura and a calming gentle affect”

“It was great, I felt pampered, relaxed and that it was my time”

“I was completely absorbed into my own world”

“A chance to reflect and be creative. To look into yourself through pictures to discover your wants.”

“A visual discovery”

“Enlightening – A different/visual way of reflecting”

“A chance to get in touch with my emotions – sometimes this can be difficult”

“An insight into another type of therapy – a less threatening way of saying what you want to say”

Thanks so much Merrin for allowing these experiences to happen within our group. We can’t wait to bring you back next year.

*** Kay Widdicombe, Coordinator at HIPPY Colac**



Parents at the HIPPY Colac group meeting get their hands dirty with chocolate play dough.

A sneak peak at the new HIPPY books for 2010...



Picture from *Daniel makes a friend*



Picture from *What will I dream tonight*



Picture from *Adam's salad*

About HIPPY Australia



Brotherhood of St Laurence

Working for an Australia free of poverty
The Brotherhood of St Laurence is licensed to operate HIPPY in Australia



redefining / financial services

HIPPY Australia is proud to acknowledge its partnership with AXA



Australian Government

Funded by the Commonwealth Government

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is a home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program targeting families with young children. It supports parents who may not feel confident to prepare their children for a successful early school experience.

HIPPY builds upon parental strengths and empowers parents to take an active role in their children's education, development and overall well-being. For some parents, it also offers a supported pathway to employment and local community leadership.

HIPPY helps to develop stronger and more confident families, with an increased capacity to make the most of opportunities provided by mainstream education.

HIPPY Australia would like to thank all of its funding bodies and individuals for their support. We couldn't do it without you.

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'Thank you' for sharing your artwork Mia!

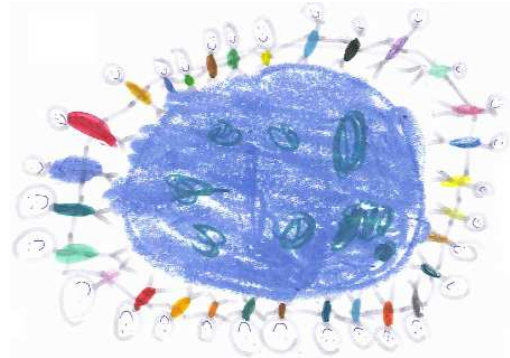
The Brotherhood of St Laurence has chosen a piece of artwork created by 6 year old Mia Kilfoyle of the HIPPY Colac site, for their new 'thank you' cards.

Mia created this picture for Children's week earlier this year and the picture was chosen by the Brotherhood because of the kind

and thoughtful message it sends about people from all around the world working together.

We would like to congratulate Mia on a beautiful picture and thank her for sharing it with the us.

We look forward to seeing her artwork printed on the Brotherhood 'thank you' cards in 2010.



**HIPPY Australia would like to wish
all our programs, colleagues, families and
friends a wonderful festive season.
Take care over the break and have a safe
and enjoyable holiday.
Best wishes for the new year!**

